



Free School Meals at The Kimberley School

If your child attends a primary school in Nottinghamshire they will continue to receive free school meals when they join us in September for as long as they are entitled to. However, if your child attends a primary school outside of the County then you will need to apply to Nottinghamshire County Council as soon as possible to ensure that your child receives free school meals once they begin attending The Kimberley School.

The most recent information we have is that free school meals are a legal entitlement for all students who attend a school full-time and whose parents or carers receive **at least one** of the following benefits:

- the Guarantee element of State Pension Credit
- an income based Jobseeker's Allowance (JSA)
- income support
- income related Employment and Support Allowance (ESA)
- Asylum Seeker's Support
- Child Tax Credit (providing you are not entitled to Working Tax Credit and your annual income, as assessed by HMRC, does not exceed £16,190)
- Working Tax Credit during the four-week period immediately after your employment finishes or after you start to work less than 16 hours per week

It is estimated that twenty per cent of children entitled to free school meals do not take them and the reason mostly given for this is that some families feel that there is a stigma attached. At The Kimberley School, the process of receiving free school meals is easy and free of any perceived stigma. All students pay for the meals through an account that is managed by our canteen staff. Students who are entitled to free school meals will have their account credited with money by the Local Authority and this information is confidential. When the student goes to the canteen the computer brings up the students' name and how much is in their account but does not reveal any information about how the account has been credited or by whom. The process is the same for all students regardless of how they pay for their meals.

As well as receiving free meals, students are also entitled to free musical tuition. As the costs of musical tuition increase it is well worth considering using free school meals entitlement to avoid this expense without depriving your child of specialist tuition. We may also be able to consider helping students on free school meals with the costs incurred as part of school trips and activities. For example, parents and carers of children who are entitled to free school meals may be able to receive financial support towards educational trips overseas, field trips and theatre visits that are organised at The Kimberley School.

If you would like more information on applying for free school meals you can telephone 01623 433 433 or visit www.nottinghamshire.gov.uk and search for 'free meals'.